



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

August 11, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. ROBERT RHODES

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced that the United States Grand Jury today returned a one-count Indictment against Department of Homeland Security Inspector **Robert Rhodes**, 43, of Niagara Falls, New York, in which he is charged with criminally violating the civil rights of a Chinese tourist by causing bodily injury to her. The alleged violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242, carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000.00, or both. It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (**Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6)**).

The Indictment charges Inspector Rhodes with causing bodily injury to the Chinese businesswoman/tourist at the Rainbow Bridge

in Niagara Falls, New York, during te evening of July 21, 2004. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Trini E. Ross and Martin J. Littlefield will oversee the prosecution.

The Indictment resulted from an investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility, under the direction of Robert Tevens, and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin.